

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22, 24-32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40-42, and 47 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that Claims 1-22, 24-32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40-42, and 47 have been allowed.

Claims 23, 33, 36, 39, and 43-45 stand either objected to or rejected for the reasons presented in the outstanding Office Action. While not conceding the propriety of these objections and rejections, and solely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Claims 23, 33, 36, 39, and 43-46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
James A. Gromada
Registration No. 44,727

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN, L.L.P.
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
East Lobby, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20007-5201
Facsimile: (202) 298-7570